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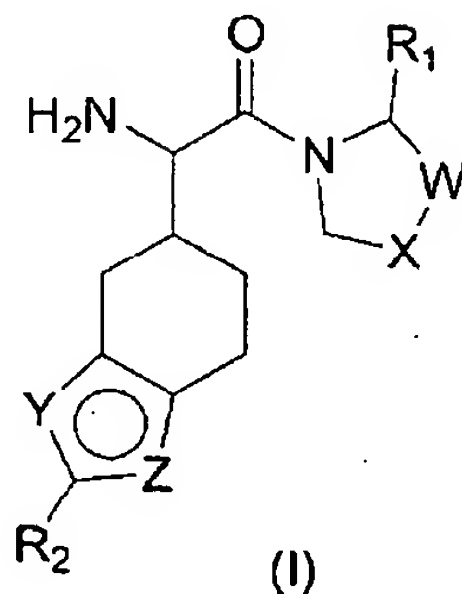
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Amendment to the Claims:

Amend Claims 8, 11, 14, 17, and 20.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of structural formula I:



wherein:

each n is independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

W is selected from the group consisting of CH₂, CHF, and CF₂;

X is selected from the group consisting of S, S(O), S(O)₂, CH₂, CHF, and CF₂;

Y and Z are each independently selected from the group consisting of O, S, N, and NR⁷, with the proviso that at least one of Y and Z is N;

R¹ is hydrogen or cyano;

R² is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,

halogen,

cyano,

hydroxy,

C₁-6 alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens,

C₁-6 alkoxy, wherein alkoxy is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens,

(CH₂)_n-COOH,

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(CH₂)_n-COOC₁₋₆ alkyl,
(CH₂)_n-CONR³R⁴,
(CH₂)_n-NR³R⁴,
(CH₂)_n-NR⁶SO₂R⁵,
(CH₂)_n-NR⁶CONR³R⁴,
(CH₂)_n-NR⁶COR⁶,
(CH₂)_n-NR⁶CO₂R⁵,
(CH₂)_n-aryl, wherein aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, CO₂H, C₁₋₆ alkyloxy, carbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, and C₁₋₆ alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens, wherein any methylene (CH₂) carbon atom in R² is independently unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and C₁₋₄ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,
(CH₂)_n-phenyl,
(CH₂)_n-C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, and
C₁₋₆ alkyl,

wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, and C₁₋₆ alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens; or

R³ and R⁴ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, and morpholine wherein said heterocyclic ring is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, and C₁₋₆ alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

each R⁵ is independently selected from the group consisting of (CH₂)_n-phenyl, (CH₂)_n-C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, and C₁₋₆ alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, and C₁₋₆ alkoxy,

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wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens, and wherein any methylene (CH₂) carbon atom in R⁵ is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and C₁₋₄ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

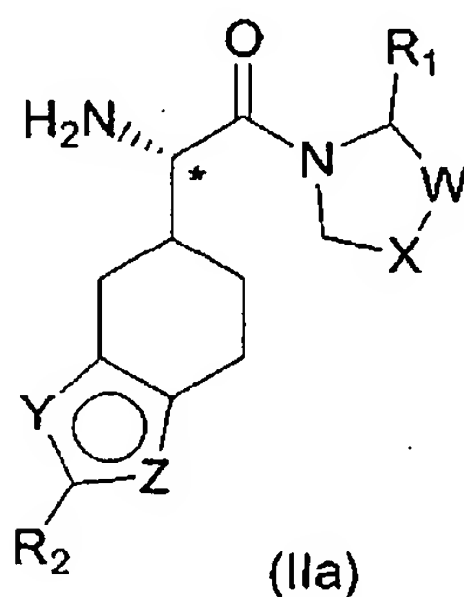
each R⁶ is hydrogen or R⁵; and

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,
(CH₂)_n-phenyl,
(CH₂)_n-C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, and
C₁₋₆ alkyl,

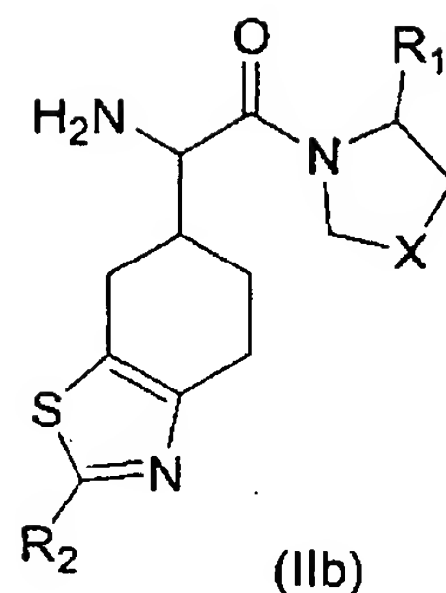
wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, and C₁₋₆ alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens.

2. (original) The compound of Claim 1 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIa:



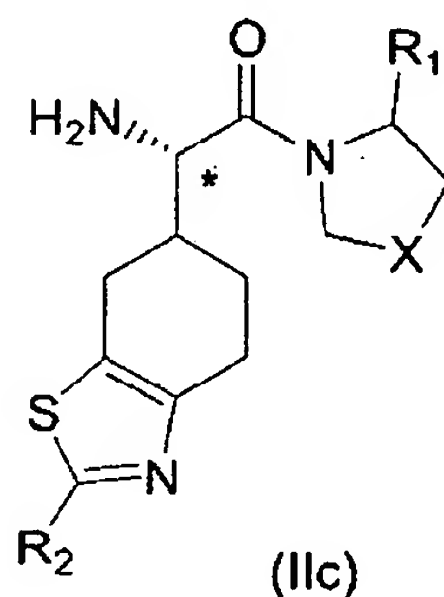
3. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIb:

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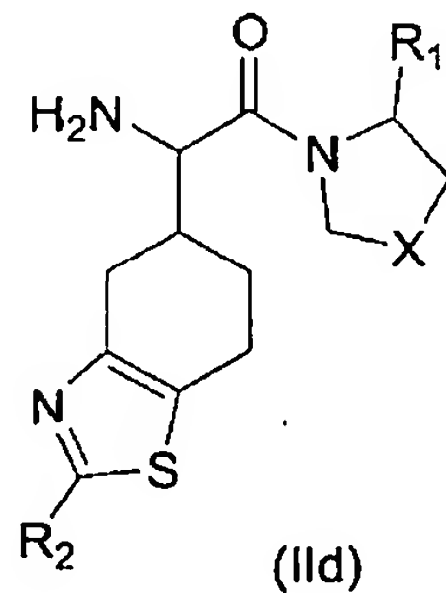
4. (original) The compound of Claim 3 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

5. (original) The compound of Claim 3 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIc:



and wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

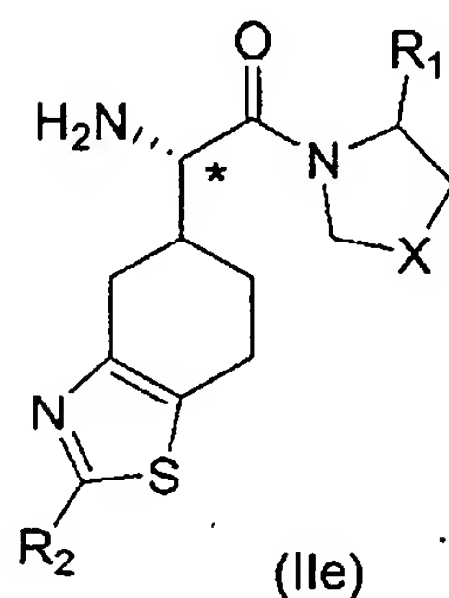
6. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula Id:



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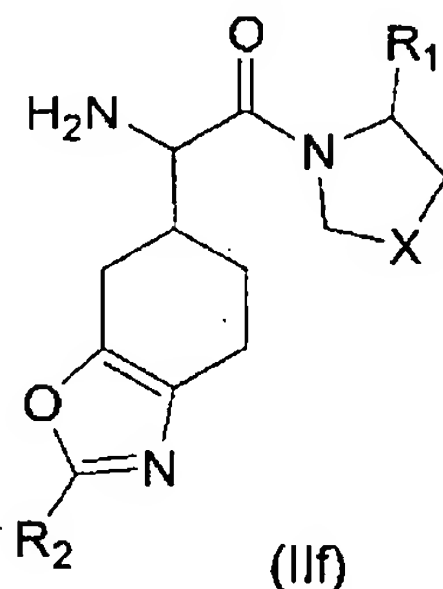
7. (original) The compound of Claim 6 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

8. (amended) The compound of Claim 6 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIe:



wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

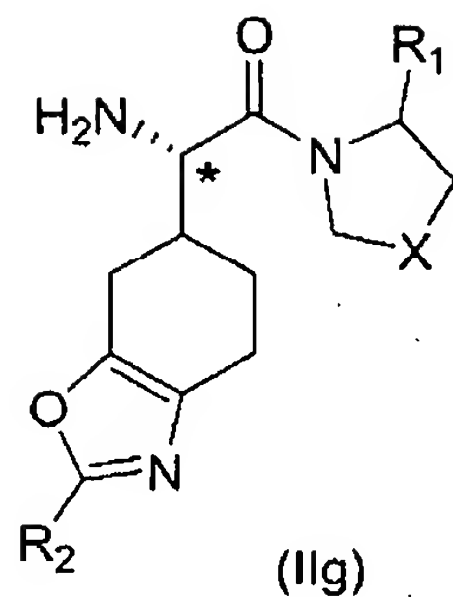
9. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula II f:



10. (original) The compound of Claim 9 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

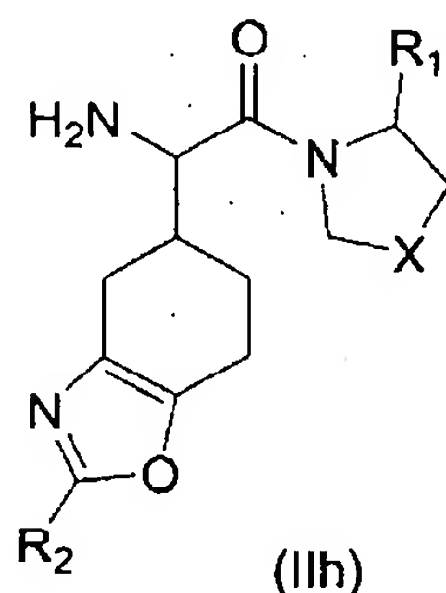
11. (amended) The compound of Claim 9 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIg:

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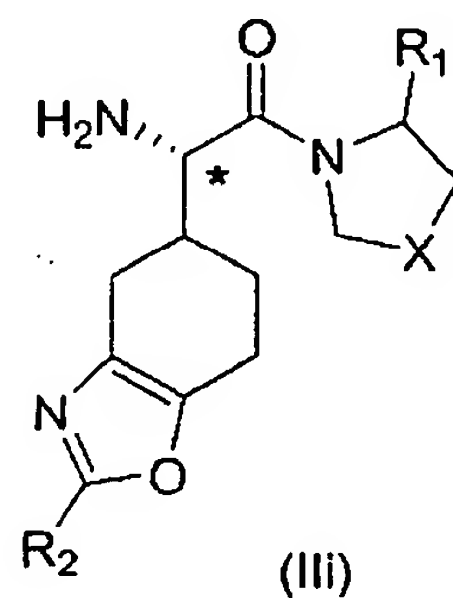
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

12. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIh:



13. (original) The compound of Claim 12 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

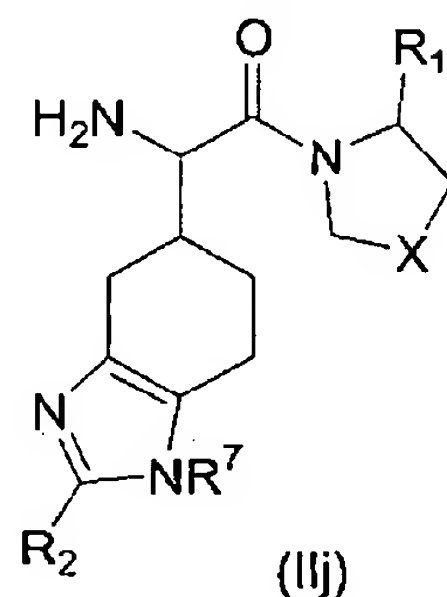
14. (amended) The compound of Claim 12 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIi:



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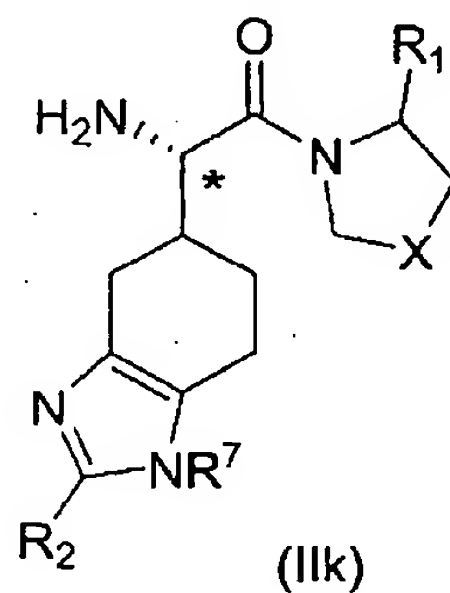
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

15. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIj:



16. (original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

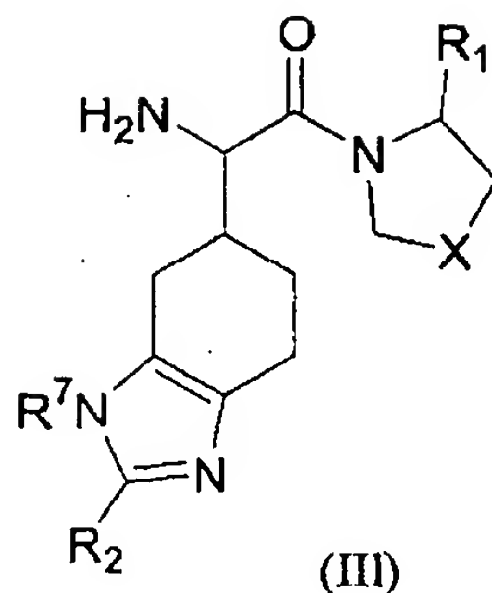
17. (amended) The compound of Claim 15 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIk:



wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

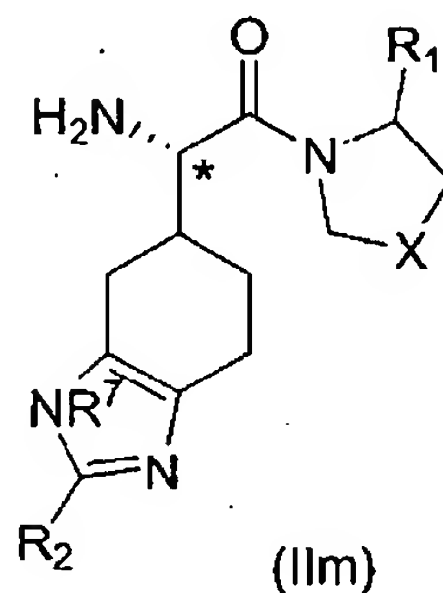
18. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula III:

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19. (original) The compound of Claim 18 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

20. (amended) The compound of Claim 18 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIIm:



wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

21. (original) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) A method for treating non-insulin dependent (Type 2) diabetes in a mammal in need thereof which comprises the administration to the mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

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24-31. (cancelled)